

NEVADA ISSUES
HOSTED BY JIM ROGERS
Monday through Friday 12:00 – 12:30 P.M.

April 12 – 18th ~ Guest, CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER, STEVE SISOLAK
regarding County Government in a time of financial crisis.

FIREFIGHTERS:

- **Firefighters wages** are out of control. The \$60,000 - \$70,000 range is good money for a job that takes a significant amount of expertise and energy. The call back is overtime pay and that is just astronomical. These salaries get bumped up to \$200,000 a year and we just can't afford that.
- **Callback** is if someone has been at the station and they haven't been gone for more than 24 hours, and another person calls in sick, they are called back in for another shift. This is compensable at time and one half. The person who called in sick gets paid for sick time and we have to replace them with a person on call-back pay. The parts that are in the contract are so egregious that it can't be posted on the Internet. These are public employees and this information should be available to the public.
- **Benefits** that are included didn't come with just one contract, they came over a multitude of years, and were approved by the County Commission, and the City Council, and whoever was governing bodies at the time approved. Some of these benefits are: uniform allowances, bilingual allowances, rapid river rescue, distance pay, etc. The money these firefighters are reaping for these benefits simply does not exist any more.
- **Accrued Benefits** include vacation pay. They get 10 days. They work 24 on and 24 off so that is where people get the idea they are sleeping, technically, on duty. They are eating on duty because they are on shift for the entire 24 hours. They accrue sick time and retirement. We pay all the insurance and retirement. Firemen that have been there for 20 to 25 years buy 5 years and can retire at 80% of their salary. This is \$10,000 to \$12,000 for individuals that retire at 45 years old.
- **Charity work for donations:** When firefighters collect donations for "Jerry's Kids, Muscular Dystrophy" we are paying for their time. They are "on duty" at that time. In North Las Vegas, they do it on their own time and it should be done on a volunteer basis.

COST CUTTING:

- **Labor, Wages and Benefits** create 80% of our expenses. To cut these, you have two choices. Either reduce the number of your workforce or reduce the salary they are paid, or both. We are not going to increase our revenue by increasing taxes. We have deferred a lot of expenses. Metro, for example, cut down the number of police cars we buy. When you defer maintenance and replacement, it will eventually catch up with you. Labor is the only other way we can look at getting a handle on some of these costs.

- **Negotiations:** we are in negotiations with different labor partners now. The last time the PPA stepped up and gave us back the cost of living. SCIU stepped up and gave us part of the cost of living back. Firefighters did not. They took their entire cost of living. They have to be part of the solution or they become part of the problem. We must work together to get through this. I don't want to lay people off if we can avoid it. I would rather have everyone get paid a little less.

If we can't agree on a contract, we go to arbitration and give our best final offers. Each group puts in their best offer and arbitration decides which the best choice is. The contracts have to be done or expire on June 30th of this year. Our new fiscal year starts July 1st.

NEW SPORTS ARENA:

- **3 Different Area Groups** have approached the Clark County Commissioner.
 1. There's talk of a sports complex on the **South** end with an arena, and a stadium ~ an outdoor stadium that will, hopefully, attract more World Cup Soccer and outdoor events. By far the most expensive of the three. It is over 100 acres of land and it would be funded with an entertainment tax, which may be a surcharge on entertainment at hotels on the strip.
 2. Further **North** is proposed by the Harrah's Foundation. The land behind their properties, on the East side of Las Vegas Blvd., has been purchased to use for an arena. It would be about a 20,000 seat arena to house sporting events, concerts, fights. This would be funded with a sales tax supplemental increase on a district, a little expanded entertainment district. East to Paradise Road to Hard Rock, and West of Decaters to take in Palm, The Rio and Orleans. There would be roughly 7/10ths of 1% additional sales tax on purchases in that corridor to provide the revenue stream for the bonds for the arena.
 3. The **Northernmost** is on the Old Wild Site, which is being proposed by a combination group. The Lowden Group is putting forward the property and a group out of New York wants to build the arena. Goldman Sachs is the investment banking firm that's involved. They want to re-establish a redevelopment agency, which we eliminated, which takes in part of Sahara and Las Vegas Blvd. They want to get going right away because they claim they need the redevelopment agency by September of 2012.

Substance:

Some of the labor groups have really gotten behind this because it provides 1500 – 2000 jobs to build an arena. After it is built there would be additional jobs to run the arena. There's a concern that we don't want to spend public money. If you establish this with one of those funding streams, and they don't materialize, who is going to get left on the hook servicing these bonds? MGM has built two arenas with their money and their stockholders. How fair is it to have a tax-payer subsidized one competing with the private ones?

Government Contracts & Local Businesses:

Government contracts should be awarded to local businesses whenever possible. A consent agenda is the first part of our agenda on which there might be 50 to 100 items that we take as one vote. You can pull items off the agenda that you want to talk about specifically. Due to the unemployment problem in Clark County, we need to do everything possible to put our local people to work.

We do have bidder preference for contractors that is 5%. They get a 5% benefit. We don't have the same thing for vendors. Some people want to buy at the cheapest price, regardless of where we buy it from. You don't get the service and relationships as when you deal locally and that can cost more in the long run. If you buy locally, the money recycles itself many times over. It's a domino effect in a positive way.

May 17 – 23, 2010~Guest: Paul Murad, Candidate for Lt. Governor**HISTORY:**

Murad stated he is not a Politician but a business man. He runs a small Real Estate business in downtown Las Vegas. Murad was born in Russia and spent his first 5 years in one of the Southern Republics, then the next 10 in Siberia. It was a tough place to grow up. His Mother was an Educator and kept him persistently dedicated to focusing on his goals. He came to America after the fall of the Berlin Wall. He witnessed first hand the historical events of the fall of the Soviet Union. He pursued his dream of coming to America to further his education, when he was just 16. He came here with no family or friends and just a few hundred dollars. Today, he is a living example that the American dream is alive and well. He graduated from the University of Tulsa with a degree in finance and International business. He also studied abroad, in Spain and Hong Kong, so he got a great International education.

Paul is seeking the position of Lt. Governor because he feels we have to look not only around the country, but internally to attract capital investment jobs here in Nevada. He has been in Nevada for about 8 years and he loves it here. It is a place where dreams can come true and where people come from around the world.

Paul wanted to run for public office because he has always been involved in the community since he was a teen. He has been involved in various professional organizations, civic and charitable organizations, groups like Opportunity Village or United Way. He has also been involved in the Young Philanthropist's Society. He has served on Boards and wants to get his peers involved in giving back to the community. Nevada is the highest in unemployment rates and fore-closure rates with all the other issues in budget and especially education. "I know it is my time to step up and serve this great State. I have the skills and background."

The Lt. Governor is like a Chief Development Office for the State. He has been a development officer for private companies, multinational financial companies. The Lt. Governor is in charge of economic development and tourism commissions, two very important areas. I would be coming into this position with the experience it needs as there is not time for on the job learning. We have to diversify our economy here and create jobs. I have done it in the private sector and am ready to do it in the public sector.

Paul hopes to push diversification with a 50-50 plan going after the 50 largest global companies and 50 largest domestic companies that are not already doing business in Nevada; and talk to them about being an ideal location for corporate headquarters for manufacturing facilities and distribution warehouse centers. He then intends to go after 100 global and domestic companies and next a thousand, and bring new companies and industries here. As an example, high-tech companies are one of the areas, as well as companies in the green sector and in green technology and manufacturing renewable energy. There's a lot of industries to go after in order to get away from just relying on real-estate, construction, gaming and hospitality in the State of Nevada.

The Nevada Film Office represents a billion dollar industry and we can do a better job attracting TV and film productions here. Tax revenue and also the promotional value are to be considered. Studies show that a location that gets featured in a major film benefits from tourism for the next 4 years. Being next to L.A., we are ideal for the production and talent to come here.

Expanding tourism is part of my platform. More direct International flights because foreign visitors are shown to spend more money, more time and plan their trips in advance. Also a direct train connection between Southern California and Northern and Southern Nevada is very important to bridge the gap between the North and South. There is no reason we should be behind Europe and Asia in having that alternative for people to travel.

Nevada is a business friendly environment. We have an excellent location here in the Southwest with easy travel to anywhere in the country, direct flights. The proximity to California and having the ability to export goods and services to California, while being here in the State of Nevada is an ideal location. We have affordable housing and office space. I also want to make sure that Reno/Tahoe hosts the Winter Olympics in 2022 or sooner.

Nevada has a lot of sources of solar wind and geothermal energy. We need to produce that energy and be a leader in clean energy production and maybe exporting it to California.

Paul Murad is running as a Democrat from Southern Nevada and is running against two other candidates from Northern Nevada. What separates him from others is knowing this community; He is a neighbor to the voters and knows what it takes to represent southern Nevada, the economic engine of the State. We need a Lt. Governor that is ready for the job from day one, as opposed to using it as a stepping stone to their political career. Paul is there to represent all of Nevada and rural places, as well as the rest of the United States and the world. He will be ambassador to the economic development and tourism as well. He speaks 3 languages. He has lived, worked and traveled in over 40 countries. He believes he can be effective as the ambassador for Nevada as an economic development officer for Nevada. He can bring here investment capital and jobs that are needed in this marketplace.

Murad said he has seen phenomenal response to his candidacy in Northern and Southern Nevada. He wants to close the split between the two and bring them together. He wants to connect Reno, Northern California and Las Vegas by train.

He has won in every straw poll with over 70% of the vote. People are responding to him in the Democratic, Independent and Republican parties. His story cuts through the political divide in the state.

June 14 ~ 21, 2010: U.S. SENATOR HARRY REID

Privatizing or doing away with social security: Social security is not about to go bankrupt. If we did nothing with it, it would be paying 100% of the benefits for the next 40 years. After that, people would draw 80% of their benefits. We want it to last longer than that so we have to look at Social Security and that is why the debt commission has been set up. It is bi-partisan commission that must report before year end. Social Security is not the reason for the debt problem in American today. Social Security is the most successful social program in the history of the world. It is secure.

Bush's number one issue was privatizing Social Security. If we had done that, with what has happened to the stock market, it would have destroyed the incomes of people on Social Security like it has devastated people in 401Ks. We need to look at it as old age protection. It is also there for widows, orphans and the disabled. Now no one wants to privatize Social Security unless they are way out in the political spectrum and some place they shouldn't be.